

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 1, please replace the fourth paragraph with the following rewritten paragraph:

With such welding wire conveyances applying different wire speeds and/or different conveying directions, wire buffers or wire ~~puffer~~ buffer storages are used to collect surplus welding wire, since in most cases only one of usually two wire feeders carries out a reversal of direction.

On page 8, please replace the third full paragraph with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 2 schematically illustrates a partial section of a prior art hose package 23. There, the lines required for a welding process, for instance a power line or electrode cable ~~17a~~ 17, cooling ducts 28 for a liquid-cooled welding torch 10 and one or several control lines 29 are arranged in a protective jacket 27.

On page 14, please replace the first full paragraph with the following rewritten paragraph:

The advantage of such an application resides in that the change in the length of the welding wire 13 is compensated by the wire buffer storage 35 due to torsions of the hose package ~~10~~ 23 (=Bowden pull effect).

On page 15, please replace the second full paragraph with the following rewritten paragraph:

From the welding plant of Fig. 10, an application with a wire buffer storage 46 known from the prior art, which is arranged within the welding apparatus 1, and the wire buffer storage 35 according to the invention provided in the hose package 23 is shown. In this case, the first wire buffer storage 46 is formed in a manner that the welding wire ~~1~~ 13 runs around the feed drum 14 or wire roll in a loop-like manner and is pulled from the feed drum 14 by a first wire feeder 47. After this, the welding wire 13 is conveyed from the wire buffer storage 46 provided in the welding apparatus 1 by a further wire feeder 36 arranged in the welding apparatus 1 into the hose package 23 and,

hence, into the longitudinally designed wire buffer storage 35, from where it is supplied to the welding torch 10 via the wire feeder 37 arranged in the region of the welding torch 10.

On page 16, please replace the third full paragraph with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figs. 13 and 14 depict a special exemplary embodiment for the detection of the longitudinal movement of the wire core 30 in a partially sectioned view, with only the most essential elements having been illustrated for the sake of clarity. In these embodiments, the means for detecting the longitudinal movement of the wire core ~~35 is comprised of~~ 30 includes a sensor 51 which performs a contactless measurement of the longitudinal movement of the wire core 30.